

SALE OF WILSON GIFTS RAISES THE PROBLEM AS TO RIGHT OF NATION TO RETAIN THEM

CUSTOM ONLY GUIDE FOR CHIEF EXECUTIVES ON DELICATE QUESTION

By CLIFFORD MEREDITH.

"AND this is the place where the \$75,000 tapestry given to Mrs. Wilson by the people of France once hung."

With these words the guides of the White House, leading visitors through the maze of beauties of the Executive Mansion, bestir within the minds of sightseers from "back home" the puzzling question:

"Are the gifts of foreign potentates and peoples to the President of the United States personal property of the man who bears the title of Chief Executive, or are they the gifts of one nation to another, entrusted to the chosen chief merely during his continuance in office?"

Custom alone has apparently been the guide for former Presidents in solving this delicate question—custom and the inability to house elsewhere the collection come with their reign of power.

The White House is a veritable museum of beautiful, historic furniture and works of art, left behind by past Presidents as memorials to their respective administrations. Thus visitors within the portals of the Executive Mansion are reminded of other than the current political beacon in their trip through the household of the First Lady. "This service was presented to the White House by President Taft—this chair was donated by President So-and-so."

LADEN WITH GIFTS.

The removal from the White House of gifts received by President and Mrs. Wilson during their visit overseas during the peace conference, and the recent report that some of the lesser gifts received have passed under the auctioneer's hammer anonymously, recalls the stir at the time the former President was being laden with the remembrances of the crowned heads of Europe.

The avalanche of gossip started with the report published here that the Wilsons were being deluged with gifts pouring in from all over Europe.

"President and Mrs. Wilson came to Paris with a very modest collection of trunks, but they will probably be forced to take home a carload," stated one report.

"Both Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have received so many gifts in the course of their stay in Paris and their visits to England and Italy that a large quantity of them will probably be taken to Washington on an army transport."

"Gifts of all kinds and of all values began pouring in the day President Wilson arrived, and they still are coming in in a never-ending stream. They come from all classes of people."

"Many of the presents are priceless, but the President values most those having a sentimental appeal. They have come principally from children, not only in France, but from all over Europe, and also from families in entente countries which have suffered from war."

"President Wilson has directed that each one be formally acknowledged. Sometimes in response to a particularly touching message accompanying the gift he writes a personal acknowledgment, but the pressure on his time is so great that he cannot do so for all."

"Nevertheless, every gift, no matter how insignificant, is carefully preserved."

"Many of them will undoubtedly find permanent places in the White House, because the President does not feel they were given to him wholly personally."

PENROSE ATTACK.

Senator Penrose of Pennsylvania arose in the Senate shortly after to launch his bitter denunciation of "gifts from crowned heads."

Interrupting a speech by Senator Ashurst, Democrat, of Arizona, who said that in 1810 it had been proposed to prohibit acceptance of gifts from foreign rulers by the President, Senator Penrose asked if the Arizona Senator had in mind gifts made to President Wilson in Europe.

"I know nothing of that," Senator Ashurst replied, "but if any Democrat accepted such gifts he would receive my condemnation as quickly as if he were a Republican."

"I have been told that the President and his party came back overburdened with presents from crowned heads and foreign governments," said Senator Penrose. "There was jewelry valued at hundreds of thousands, and I was told that customs authorities valued the gifts at more than \$1,000,000."

In the face of this, and acting on the express wish of President and Mrs. Wilson, Secretary Tumulty immediately issued a statement tending to ridicule the overvaluation of donations by the Pennsylvania Senator.

LISTS THE GIFTS.

"Outside of a considerable number of small gifts," declared Tumulty, "such as books, walking sticks, an old silver dish found in the ruins of Louvain, war souve-

The shop of "Reynolds Antiques," where some of the gifts of the French people to Woodrow Wilson found a resting place after the auction block.

new made by soldiers out of war materials, and numerous medals struck off in his honor, the following are the only important gifts received by the President in Europe:

"In England:

"Photograph of the King and Queen of England. A book relating to Windsor Castle. The freedom of the city of London, presented in a gold casket by Lord Mayor of Guild, hall."

"In Italy:

"A water color picture, on bronze easel, presented by the Queen of Italy. A bronze figure presented at the Capitol in Rome (a gift from the people). A figure of 'Italia Victoria,' sent to the train at Genoa, either by a school or by citizens of Genoa. A set of books from citizens of Genoa. A mosaic presented by the Pope."

"In France:

"A bronze figure presented by a body of students. The President also received numerous honorary degrees from nearly all the countries of Europe."

"Gifts to Mrs. Wilson:

"A pin of Parisian enamel with tiny diamond chips, presented in Hotel de Ville by the city of Paris. Linen, hand-embroidered lunch set, in case, presented through Madame Poincare and Madame Pinchon, by the working women of France."

"In Belgium:

"A small medal by Cardinal Mercier. A Belgium lace table cover, presented by the Queen. A complete table cover presented by the Queen. A complete file of the 'Libre Belgique' (paper published during the German occupation), presented by the King in leather folder."

"In Italy:

"A reproduction of the 'Wolf and Romulus and Remus,' in gold, presented by the people through private subscription. A piece of lace in leather case, presented by Signor Orlando, 'in behalf of his colleagues.' A small reproduction in silver of a pitcher found in the ruins of Pompeii."

LAUGH ON PENROSE.

Publication of this list gave the laugh to Senator Penrose and to Representative Rodenburg, Illinois Congressman, who had introduced a resolution to investigate the reports that gifts received totaled more than \$1,000,000 in value.

But the list later appeared to have been prematurely released, or incomplete through errors. No mention was made of the \$75,000 tapestry presented to Mrs. Wilson—a beautiful piece of work depicting the celebration of "Psyche's Marriage," so great in size that it later covered almost the entire east side of the East Room in the White House when the Wilsons returned to their home on Pennsylvania avenue.

Nor did the list include mention



"Moving Day" for ex-President Woodrow Wilson.



A valuable print of Abraham Lincoln, a present to Wilson—sold with other articles.

of the tapestry frame of Queen Antoinette, admired by Mrs. Wilson in her visits to a French museum, and soon after presented to her by the French government.

Location of this historic bit of the unfortunate queen's personal property in a Washington antique shop during the past week has provided confirmation of the rumor current since the Wilsons' exodus from the White House that certain of the gifts had been sold anonymously.

AT ANTIQUE SHOP.

In the display rooms of George W. Reynolds, antique dealer at 1752 M street northwest, rests the handsome frame once graced by the dainty hands of Queen Marie and taken from a treasured collection of Antoinette articles in a French museum in answer to the expressed delight of Mrs. Wilson.

Authenticity of the piece is laid to the presence of engravings on two of the brass finishings on the frame—one reading "Trianon, MDCLXXXIII"; the other "M. A." over which is engraved the crest of the queen.

The degree of sentimental value placed by the French on the tapestry frame is indicated in the many books dealing with the private life of the queen. Rare, indeed, are the accounts of the last tragic days of Marie Antoinette, which do not include reference to the important part played in her life by the handicraft once executed on this frame.

"The king and queen now found themselves in the gorgeous apartments of the Tuilleries," reads one account, "surrounded with all the mockery of external homage, but incessantly exposed to the most ignominious insults. For some time the queen lived in retirement."

"She employed the mornings in superintending the education of her son and daughter, both of whom received all their lessons in her presence."

WORKED ON LOOM.

"And she endeavored to occupy her mind, continually agitated as it was by ever-recurring scenes of outrage and danger, by working large pieces of tapestry."

Strange, indeed, then, that the

The ends of the tapestry frame, which once belonged to Marie Antoinette—a present from France to Wilson—which found its way from the corridors of the White House to the antique shop. The lettering on the old loom bears the initials of Marie Antoinette.

cherished remembrance of Marie Antoinette's intimate homelife should pass from the drawing room of Mrs. Wilson to the inglorious and uncertain fate of public auction.

Was it all a great faux pas—undoubtedly due to the confusion of moving elaborate personal additions to the White House household equipment, made over a period of eight years' residence—that the coveted gift from the French people was included in the assortment of other articles perforce of circumstance doomed to pass from Wilsonian ownership?

The inner circles of official Washington seem divided in their opinions of the incident.

"It was the bungling mistake of the agent employed by the Wilsons to sell certain articles—not gifts—which they no longer desired. Neither Mr. or Mrs. Wilson knew of the tapestry frame's inclusion in the lot of goods to be sold at Sloan's," declare some.

"It was a logical place for a gift never truly appreciated because of

Bric-a-Brac, Loom Tapestry, Sandals Sent to Auction

USING a confidential agent, whose name has not been disclosed, Woodrow Wilson has disposed of a number of pieces of bric-a-brac which was presented to him and to Mrs. Wilson during their stay at the White House.

On removing from the White House on March 4, the Wilsons found they had more curios and valueless gifts than they could care for in their new S street home.

Among the articles which found their way to second-hand stores in Washington were a loom formerly used by Marie Antoinette, a painting of Abraham Lincoln, several pieces of tapestry, some sandals presented by the Indians, and several other pieces of little or no value.

House into the home of a "plain citizen."

In what light does a new administration, antagonistic to the one preceding it in its political coloring, view the strange case of the Wilson gifts?

And, rest the multitudinous gifts with which the Hardings have been deluged since the day they rode up to the White House portals as new residents in the nation's leading home, likewise in later years become trinkets of the auction room, will the solons officially suggest that the National Museum always stands ready to receive cast-off gifts of real historical value?

1,000 Bull Buffaloes Offered for Sale By Canadian Government

EDMONTON, Alta., Sept. 3.

ONE thousand buffaloes are for sale by the Dominion government. They are for the most part bulls and represent the surplus of the herd of nearly 5,000 in the national park at Wainwright, Alta.

The park is the largest wild-game preserve under fence in the world. It contains more than 100,000 acres and could support 25,000 buffaloes readily. But there is little winter pasture because of the deep snows, and a vast quantity of hay has to be cut every year to carry the herd through the cold season. This difficulty will make it necessary to limit the maximum size of the herd to 10,000 head.

The herd is now growing rapidly. As the number of breeding cows increases its rate of growth will be more rapid. Nearly a third of the animals are bulls. So large a proportion of males is unnecessary, and, under the present plan, they will be sold or killed and sold for meat. The slaughter will begin when cool weather sets in in the fall.

The Wainwright herd has developed from 800 bison bought from Michael Pablo, of Montana, in 1909. The national park is in the prairie country that was the aboriginal habitat of the bison. The herd is the largest in the world. Of the millions of bison that once roamed the continent only 9,311 remain, according to the last census of the American Bison Society.

Woman Keeps Vow When Her Husband Regains His Health

LISBON, Sept. 3.

A CURIOUS sight was witnessed in the streets of Lisbon just after dawn recently. Maria Concalado, wife of a workman, was seen dragging herself painfully on her knees from her house through the busy streets to the Church of Our Lady of Health, thus carrying out a vow made during the illness of her husband in case of his recovery.

The distance from her house to the church was over two miles, and before she had accomplished one-half of her pilgrimage her knees were torn by the stones and her dress was stained with blood.

Cliff Dwellers' Relics Sought in Colorado

DURANGO, Colo., Sept. 3.—New discoveries of the modes of living of the "cliff dwellers" are expected to be made this summer in Mesa Verde National Park by Dr. J. Walter Fawkes, ethnological investigator for the Smithsonian Institute.

It is expected that Dr. Fawkes will devote a large part of the coming season to new territory, and it is reported that he is confident that he will bring to light structures of the unknown race as startling as was the "sun temple" he uncovered some years ago.

TEN PRIZES OFFERED FOR BEST VERSES TO FIT THE 'FOUR HORSEMEN'

Winner of First Reward, \$25 in Cash, Will Also Share Royalties When Words and Music Are Placed on Sale in Music Stores. Contest Closes Next Saturday at Noon.

Ten prizes will be paid by The Washington Times for the best words to accompany the music of the "Four Horsemen Fox Trot," written by Miss Alice Terry, which appears in today's paper.

The first prize will be \$25 in cash; second prize four tickets to "The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse," now playing at Poll's Theater, and from the third to the tenth prize, two tickets to each successful contestant.

The \$25 cash prize, however, will be only one of the rich rewards for the winning man or woman for writing just a few lines of appropriate lyric verse.

Miss Terry has agreed to share her royalties on the sale of the words and music with the writer of the winning lines. Instantaneous popularity has been predicted for this fox trot, and the sale of many thousands of copies is confidently expected by each and every musical authority who has heard it.

Contestants may write any words they wish to submit in this competition, which will close next Saturday at noon, but Miss Terry suggests that they write their lines around the activities of some of the characters in the motion picture now appearing at Poll's.

Play the music on your piano several times, get its lilt and rhythm and then try to write the few lines of verse necessary to fit the music. You will find that it does not require verse of perfect poetic measure

to fit the words and this will make it all the easier for you to write them.

There are no rules or limitations on this contest. You can make as many efforts as you wish, just so you get them into the hands of the Music Contest Editor of The Washington Times by next Saturday at noon.

FIRST PRIZE IS \$25.

Get a pencil and a piece of paper and go to work. Perhaps the first spontaneous lines you dash off will be declared the best and in that event you will get the \$25 in cash and share in the royalties when this fox trot is placed on sale in music stores.

Even if your words are not pronounced the best you will still have a chance to finish "inside the money"—or rather, inside the tickets.

Here's wishing you luck. There is nothing hard about it. The task is simple and brief and the reward is rich and promising.

By TILLER

Being Some Intimate Glimpses and Close-ups Of Persons Familiar in the Nation's Capital.

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IN the good old days, recalls Judge James Campbell Flournoy—one of the best story tellers who ever came out of Kentucky—a stiff poker game could generally be found at a certain hotel in Louisville. A periodical visitor to Louisville was a fellow who made a living out in Indiana by dealing in turkeys. Whenever this Hoosier put through a big deal in turkeys he followed it by hopping on a train and going to Louisville to play poker with the particular crowd he liked.

The Indiana man, explains Judge Flournoy, was a liberal spender and a poor poker player. Not infrequently he went back home broke, but if the turkey market was good he might be depended on to return in a few weeks.

"One night," says our narrator, "the Indiana visitor was on a getting rampage. He tried to run everybody in the game and bought chips steadily. High stakes were being played, a faithful waiter was serving the drinks and winners' and losers were betting freely."

"At last the visitor from Indiana shoved all his chips into the center of the table, making a bet of approximately \$500. An old Kentucky Colonel by the name of Hendricks promptly called him."

"What have you, suh?" asked the Kentuckian.

"Nothing but a busted flush," said the man from Indiana.

"Exhibiting a full house and a king full at that, Colonel Hendricks raked in the big pot. He was silent for a moment and then addressed his adversary as follows:

"Brother, I understand that you are a turkey dealer."

"The Hoosier said he was such a dealer and on a large scale."

"Well, suh," observed Colonel Hendricks, "there are a lot of English sparrows in Kentucky, and I just want to observe, without offending you, suh, that if you could catch every sparrow in this State and sell them at turkey prices, you couldn't keep in enough money to play poker as you play the game."

"The Indiana man said nothing, bought a new stack, lost it and went out into the night. He was seldom seen around those parts again."

Judge Flournoy also says that one of the best families in Kentucky at one time had a "black sheep." This young man was wild, trifling and exceedingly lazy. At that, he was a likeable fellow in a way, but he'd rather shoot pool than work, and how he got along was a village mystery and scandal.

An old colored man, a character about the town, who had known the "black sheep" when he was a mere baby, was lamenting one day the fall from grace of this scion of one of the most prominent families of Old Kentucky.

"I jes' don't know what's de matter wid Mr. Billy," said the venerable dandy. "Seems 'e he's a-gettin' me 'triflin' all de time."

"You know how he 'pears to me, Judge. Ef I had a job dat I didn't want done a-tall, I'd hire Mr. Billy ter do it."

Judge Flournoy says the old ne-

gro's description of "Mr. Billy" is about as apt as one could give in so few words.

Josephus Daniels, former Secretary of the Navy, who was both denounced and praised during his administration of the Navy Department, has one habit with which no fault can be found. It's an exceptional habit, too, and it's unfortunately true that few men have it.

Near the close of his term of office a visitor who called upon Secretary Daniels was asked to wait a moment while Mr. Daniels finished a letter in long-hand. It was a later revealed that Mr. Daniels was writing a note to his mother.

Subsequently it was learned that Mr. Daniels left home as a young man nearly forty years ago. Every day since that time, except when Josephus Daniels was with his mother, he has begun or ended the day's work by writing a letter to his mother. With Mr. Daniels, every day has become a "Mother's Day" when it comes to writing a letter home.

Returning to the subject of the national indoor game, a recent arrival in Washington began playing at one of the clubs and was mystified by the fact that it was simply impossible for him to put over a "bluff" on a certain fellow player. Invariably when the new player in the game had a real hand he's opponent threw his cards into the deck. Just as invariably he was caught by this player whenever he happened to be "out on a limb" with an incomplete flush, straight, or other hand.

It was all very simple according to the fellow who exhibited such marvelous judgment in calling or throwing in. Here's the way he explained it:

"The first time I played with that guy I watched his face quite closely. He has a peculiar manner of giving himself dead away. Every time he tries to put over a bluff he opens his mouth and his lower lip sags down. When he's got a good hand he closes his lips tight. I simply call him whenever his lip sags and I haven't missed getting the pot yet. But don't tell him I told you. I don't think he knows his own habit and its worth money to me."

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Aviators Spray Trees to Show Value on Farms

International News Service.

DAYTON, Sept. 3.—The possibility of the airplane in assisting farmers was demonstrated by McCook Field fliers and a French aviator at Orchard Grove, near here, when several planes took up insect-killing liquids and other germicides and sprayed trees.

The experiment was made on a grove of catalpa trees and was watched by a large crowd of farmers. It was pronounced a great success.